Mitigation of irregular respiration in 4DCT

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- Introduction to 4D-CT
- Data sufficiency condition
- Artifacts
- Integration with PET/CT
- Mitigation of irregular respiration in 4D-CT
- Radiation to implantable cardiac devices
- Summary

Helical CT data acquisition



Breathing artifacts



16x0.625 mm, 0.8 s gantry rotation, pitch 1.375:1, speed: 17.2 mm/s

First 4D-CT

Potential radiotherapy improvements with respiratory gating

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Australas. Phys. Eng. Sci. Med. Vol. 25, No 1, 2002

Keall et al • Potential radiotherapy improvements



a)

b)

Figure 1. A coronal view of CT scans of the same patient taken (a) without gating and (b) with gating at exhale. The gross tumour volume (GTV) is outlined in each image.

Philips single slice PQ 5000 CT scanner, 3 mm slice, single phase gating > 8 min, end-inspiration h/w gating

1st GE 4D-CT (March 8, 2002)



Animal setup



Scout view



Axial view plus time



Coronal view plus time

Pan, et al, Med Phys '04

Early 4D-CT work

Scanner	Slices (mm)	GC (s)	Acq.	Pitch	Speed (mm/s)	Image Gap	Acq. Time
Phillips 1-slice [1]	3	1.0	Cine	N/A	A 0.5 None		420 sec
Phillips 1-slice[2,3]	3	1.5	Helical	0.5 1		Yes	200 sec
Siemens 4-slice [4]	4 x 2.5	0.75	Cine	N/A 0.8 None		None	251 sec
GE 4-slice [5]	4 x 2.5	0.5	Cine	N/A 1.6		None	126 sec
GE 8-slice [5]	8 x 2.5	0.5	Cine	N/A	3.2	None	63 sec
Philips 16-slice [6]	16 x 1.75	0.5	Helical	0.125	6	Yes	50 sec

- 1. Keall et al, *Phys. Eng. Sci. Med.*, 2002.
- 2. Vedam et al, *Phys. Med. Biol.*, 2003.
- 3. Ford et al, *Med. Phys.*, 2003.

- 4. Low et al, *Med. Phys.*, 2003.
- 5. Pan et al, *Med. Phys., 2004.*
- 6. Keall et al, PMB, 2004.

All 4D-CT assume regular breathing. MSCT made 4D imaging practical.



Step and shoot	Step and shoot	Cine		
	(cardiac, calcium scoring)	(4DCT)		
One rotation (≤ 4 s) per position	X-ray on for 240 degrees	Multiple rotations per step		
Helical	Helical	Helical		
	(cardiac)	(4DCT)		
pitch 0.5 to 1.5	pitch 0.2 to 0.3	pitch < 0.1		

pitch = $\frac{\text{table translation per rotation}}{\text{X-ray beam width}}$

Data Sufficiency Condition

- Per location the acquisition time has to be at least
 - average breathing cycle T_b , plus
 - data acquisition for an image reconstruction T_g
- Cine acquisition ($T_b = 4 \text{ s}, T_g = 0.5 \text{ s}$)
 - 4.5 s per cine step
- Helical acquisition ($T_b = 4 \text{ s}, T_g = 0.5 \text{ s}$)
 - $P = T_g / (T_b + T_g)$ P = 0.11 @ 4 s

Longer breath cycle requires longer cine scan or smaller pitch helical scan

Cine 4D-CT Protocol

- 4 or 8 slices of 2.5 mm per rotation
- 0.5 sec or 0.8 sec/revolution
- Scan duration = breathing cycle + 1 sec
- Ensure the RPM is recording the respiratory waveform after the scout scan
- Push the scan button
- Dose is < 50 mGy for chest and < 75-100 mGy for abdomen

Helical 4D-CT Pitch Design

	Siemens Design				Philips Design		
Т _b	<i>p</i> @ T _g =0.5	<i>p</i> @ T _g =1.0		Τ _b	<i>p</i> @ T _g =0.5	<i>p</i> @ T _g =0.44	
3	0.1	N/A		3	0.15	0.12	
4	0.1	, N/A		4	0.11	0.10	
5	0.1	, N/A		5	0.09	0.08	
6	N/A	0.1		6	0.075	0.065	
	••//	0.1			1		

Longer breath cycle requires longer cine scan or smaller pitch helical scan

First commercial cine 4D-CT



Pan, et al, Med Phys '04



Pan, et al, Med Phys '04

Motion phantom experiment



4 sec cycle and 2 cm peak to peak motion

Pan et al, Med Phys, '04

Effect of gating on phantom imaging



Gating preserves the shape and size of the object

Cine CT Data Acquisition



Pan et al, JNM, '04

Cine CT user interface for low dose



Cine CT user interface for RT



1st clinical case from MGH



55 sec Cine scan (200 mAs sec per step) with free breathing of 3.72 sec average breathing cycle

Pan et al, Med Phys, 04

4D-CT patient study



4D-CT patient study with contrast













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PHYSICS CONTRIBUTION

ASSESSING RESPIRATION-INDUCED TUMOR MOTION AND INTERNAL TARGET VOLUME USING FOUR-DIMENSIONAL COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY FOR RADIOTHERAPY OF LUNG CANCER

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- 166 tumors in 152 patients
- 57.2% stage III & VI
- 10.8% > 1 cm

Artifacts

Ideal waveforms from RPM



No one is like this!

Basic assumptions of 4D-CT

- Data acquisition for one breathing cycle per table position
- Over a couple of minutes to 4D-CT the whole lung



Irregular breathing

Undersampling

Ensure phase correctness



Correct EOI phase

Pan et al, Med Phys, '07

Incorrect ID of end-inspiration phases



Correct ID of end-inspiration phases



sec

4D-CT (phase sorting issue)



Artifact caused by Irregular respiration

Werner et al, Radiation Oncology, '17

4D-CT

50%-100% 0%-50% 50%-100% 50%-100% 50%-100% 0%-50% 0%-50% 0%-50% π -2 π π -2 π π -2 π π -2 π 0-π 0-π 0-π 0-π **INSP INSP** EXP EXP EXP **INSP** EXP INSP

Conventional phase sorting

Phase corrected phase sorting



The contours in MIP may become smaller with phase correction.

Zamora et al, Med Phys, '10

Solutions for mitigating artifacts

- Patient experience the same short sessions of imaging and treatment for patient comfort
- Acquisition of more than 1 respiratory cycle
 Additional time for data selection
- Repeat acquisition of the positions with irregular respiration
 Additional tool for merging the data of regular respiration
- Repeat the 4DCT study
 - Most used w/o guarantee the repeat scan is better than the first scan
- Prospective gating, i.e., acquisition of only the regular data
 - Proof of concept by Keall et al in 2007

Two back to back 4D-CTs



Image quality degraded in long imaging session

Use the whole image data set for MIP



Patient example:



For tumor motion inclusion, it is better that we use all images for MIP. It is called 'original' in GE 4D-CT.

Riegel et al, Med Phys, '09



Average CT (Average intensity projection) Attenuation correction of PET Dose Calculation IGRT in RT

MIP CT ITV or IGTV tumor contouring

Differences between PET and CT

PET



- scan of 15 cm for 3 to 6 mins,
- spatial resolution ~ 6 mm

CT - 0.5 sec rotation



- scan of 90 cm < 20 sec
- spatial resolution < 0.5 mm

temporal resolution ~ breathing cycle _____ temporal resolution < 1 sec</p>

Potential misalignment between PET and CT images
Patient study #1



Average PET / FB CT

Average PET / average CT

Patient study #2



Average PET / average CT

Average PET / FB CT

Patient study #3



Average PET / FB CT

Average PET / average CT

FDG uptake in the liver?



FB CT

FDG uptake in the kidney



Average CT

Lung lesion or liver lesion?



FB CT

Average PET

Average PET / FB CT

Lung lesion or liver lesion?



Average CT

Average PET

Average PET / average CT

Bone involvement?



Average CT

×2.08

Ĥ

Tumor and cardiac imaging



SUV=2.6

SUV=5.0

Improve the restaging after chemo



PET/CT scan indicated a positive response to induction chemo with FB CT.



The patient had a negative response to the chemo with average CT. Pan, et al, Med Phys, '08

Impact on treatment planning

Previous GTV was outlined based on CT and clinical PET without motion correction. New GTV was redefined based on the correct information from PET with ACT.



Pan, et al, Med Phys, '08

Tumor contouring with MIP CT



Average CT for RT dose calculation



Average CT for IGRT





Average CT (ACT)

Slow $CT \neq Average \ CT$

Long slow scan \neq Long fast scan

Slow scan CT artifacts



0.5 sec rotation

4 sec rotation



Average CT (4 sec)

Slow CT (4 sec)

Average CT is better than slow CT (2 adjacent CT slices of 2.5 mm apart)



Prospective 4D-CT on SSCT

Prospective 4D-CT



Keall et al, Australas Phys. Eng. Sci. Med. 2007

Prospective 4D-CT feasibility



Implemented on Philips PQ5000, but no patient scan was conducted.

Keall et al, Australas Phys. Eng. Sci. Med. 2007

Prospective cine 4D-CT (applicable today)

IOP Publishing | Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

Physics in Medicine & Biology

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Note

New prospective 4D-CT for mitigating the effects of irregular respiratory motion

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Identification of irregular respiration 1



Identification of irregular respiration 2





CIRS Dynamic Thorax Phantom

Dynamic Thorax Phantom







Phantom Experiment Irregular respiration in conventional 4D-CT





Skip irregular respiration in Prospective 4D-CT





Prospective 4D-CT (1)





End inspiration



End expiration



End inspiration with irregular respiration

Prospective 4D-CT (2)





End inspiration



End expiration



End inspiration with irregular respiration

Retrospective reconstruction to remove the images of irregular respiration

Retro	Scan Type	Retro Start	Retro End	No. of Images	Thick (mm)	Interval	Time
Y	Cine Full 0.5 sec.	I40.000	(57.500	96	8 x 2.5	0.500	0.0 6.0
Y	Cine Full 0.5 sec.	160.000	E77.500	96	8 x 2.5	0.500	0.0 6.0
N	Cine Full 0.5 sec.	180.000	197.500	32	8 x 2.5	0.500	0.0 2.1
Y	Cine Full 0.5 sec.	180.000	197.500	96	8 x 2.5	0.500	0.0 6.0

Steps of prospect cine 4D-CT

- Stop acquisition when irregular respiration
- Resume acquisition when regular respiration
- Take out incomplete data in retrospective reconstruction
- Repeat as needed
- Not applicable to helical 4D-CT
 - Once the scan is stopped, it can not be resumed.
 - Calculation is needed for the remaining scan.

Radiation and implantable defibrillator and pace maker

Comparison of an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator and a Pacemaker



http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/dci/Diseases/icd/icd_whatis.html



- CT directly irradiating the electronics of ICD can cause electronic interference, the probability that this interference can cause clinically significant adverse events is extremely low.
- The probability of x-ray electromagnetic interference is lower when radiation dose and particularly the radiation dose rate are reduced.
- Interference can be completely avoided when the implantable device is outside of the primary x-ray beam of the CT scanner.

Effects of CT Irradiation on Implantable Cardiac Rhythm Management Devices¹

Radiology

Cynthia H. McCollough, PhD Jie Zhang, PhD Andrew N. Primak, PhD Wesley J. Clement, BSEE John R. Buysman, PhD

Maximum Dose





To prospectively measure the response of a variety of models of implantable cardiac rhythm management devices (ICRMDs) to the radiation delivered by computed tomography (CT), for both maximum and typical dose levels.





Conclusion:

CT irradiation at typical clinical doses results in oversensing of ICRMDs in the majority of devices tested, although the identified effects were predominantly transient.

MDACC 4D-CT patient



First reported 4D-CT induced interference



89 year old thyroid cancer patient had a Medtronic Sensia single chamber pacemaker undergoing 4DCT imaging with the cine duration of 5 second per step

Pan et al, J. Nuc Card, 2018
Experiment setup



Connect the leads to the generator

Saline solution to submerge the PM

Wirelessly-connect PM to computer Computer (connected to pacemaker) for recording hits or over-sensings





Pacemaker experiment

- Scans of various dose rates at the leads and generator
- Each scan is a 4-s axial scan of 20 mm beam
- Each dose rate was repeated 3 times
- The lowest dose rate was repeated 8 times
- Oversensings were recorded

# Trials	kV	mA	duration (s)	mGy	mGy/s
3	120	440	4	164.8	41.2
3	120	220	4	82.4	20.6
3	120	110	4	41.2	10.3
3	120	50	4	18.7	4.7
3	120	40	4	15.0	3.7
3	120	30	4	11.2	2.8
3	120	20	4	7.5	1.9
8	120	10	4	3.7	0.9

Table 1. Scan techniques and associated radiation dose and dose rates.



Results

41.2 mGy/s

0.9 mGy/s



Figure 4 (a) Three trials of the highest radiation dose rate of 41.2 mGy/s for 4 seconds. There were 15, 15 and 17 oversensings for trials 1, 2 and 3, respectively. (b) First three trials of lowest radiation dose rate of 0.9 mGy/s for 4 seconds. There was no over-sensing in any of the three trials.

> The low dose rate of 0.9 mGy/s can be safe for ICD. This low dose rate is currently used in cardiac PET/CT.

> > Pan et al, J. Nuc Card, '18



- 4D-CT is a routine procedure in RT
- Average CT and MIP are useful
- Average CT can improve PET/CT registration.
- Prospective cine 4D-CT can be implemented today to help reduce artifacts
- Most CT scans interfere with the function of pacemaker